



Re: HB5463
support

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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDWARD MCBROOM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Chairman Johnson and committee members,

For those who value foreign language education, they often must answer why the mandate is valuable to all when it is so likely that a student may never need the particular foreign language they learn. Their answers are almost invariable to point out that the skills of learning a foreign language are valuable and essential even if that particular language itself is not utilized. If this is true, how can anyone oppose the inclusion of music as counting towards foreign language? After all, music is most definitely a language. It includes all of the regular parts we expect- symbols translated to sounds, syntax, and structure. Structures that include periods, phrases, enunciation, pronunciation, articulation, and emotion. Most of all, it is a complex form of communication as any language is. I believe it could be argued that it is the most complex language on earth. Yet, it is also a language that is closer to global than any other language on earth as it is found in every culture and the modern systems of notation are used almost universally.

I also believe the other arts cut the same way. While it may not be precisely a language with the complexity of symbols, it most certainly retains the fundamental element of communication through words, actions, and images. Those skilled with acting, paint, photos, clay, and other media are learning to communicate and provide real value to our communities and state. I urge you to adopt these changes to the MMC to continue the work to return flexibility for our Michigan students and schools. We need these changes to return opportunity to our students to pursue their own ambitions and aptitudes whether they be in technical/vocational education, agriculture, biology, English, math or the arts, or others. We must reconsider the idea that some educational pursuits are intrinsically more valuable than others. The continued efforts of expanding the options in the MMC get us away from the one-size-fits-all graduate model and the idea of one perfect curriculum that is hindering our economic growth and, particularly in the arts, diminishing the beauty and enjoyment of our culture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Ed McBroom